

ACCOUNTING EDUCATION NEWS

The Newsletter of the American Accounting Association



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2009 Winter Issue

2nd Annual Conference in Teaching and Learning:
Call for Submissions

2009 Annual Meeting Hotel Information

AAA Digital Library Launched

2009-2010 Slate of Nominees

Student Membership Available to Doctoral Students Worldwide



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A Few Words...

by Tracey Sutherland, AAA Executive Director

Accounting Tipping Points and Thought Leadership



Sue Haka, AAA President

In the Fall newsletter, I referred to Malcolm Gladwell's book, *"The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference"* (first published by Little Brown in 2000.). Gladwell suggests that large-scale changes in society are often like social epidemics. These epidemics can happen all at once and little changes can make a significant difference in the path of social epidemics.

The objective of this newsletter discussion is two-fold: first, to identify current tipping points facing the accounting community and second to encourage engagement by Association members in those little changes that can affect the path of these accounting epidemics.

Accounting Faces Its Own Tipping Points

The demographic tipping point confronting the accounting academy was discussed in the Fall 2008 newsletter. However we face other accounting tipping points, including the global spread (epidemic?) of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the global use of XBRL to tag financial information, the growing use of fair values, a management compensation backlash, the move away from a revenue/expense-based reporting model toward an assets/liabilities model of financial reporting, and a "true and fair" view versus an "in conformity with" audit approach. At first blush, these issues may seem to be unconnected tipping points. But Gladwell is quick to point out that epidemics are sensitive to the conditions and circumstances of the times and places in which they occur. The global community has, over the last several years, experienced unprecedented financial excesses. These excesses are the context for the accounting changes that now face us.

Make no mistake, the outcomes of these tipping points are uncertain and remain controversial. Thus, our collective accounting thought leadership is critical.

The IFRS Global Epidemic

In November 2008 the SEC released its roadmap outlining a proposal for domestic issuers to adopt IFRS by 2014. Despite the positive IFRS support by large public accounting firms, some academics¹ and multinational corporations, others are not convinced a single set of global accounting standards

1. "Response to the SEC Release: Acceptance from Foreign Private Issuers of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards without Reconciliation To U.S. GAAP File No. S7-13-07," P. E. Hopkins *et al.* (AAA's Financial Accounting and Reporting Section Financial Reporting Policy Committee) *Accounting Horizons* 22(2), 223 (2008).

is appropriate. Charles Niemeier, an influential member of the PCAOB, said "the switch to IFRS by 2014 could squander comparability among US financial statements and impede the ability of the regulators and auditors to do their jobs."² Other academics suggest one set of globally accepted accounting standards inhibits the innovation and progress that comes from competition among standard-setting bodies.³

IFRS implications for the U.S. economy are not well understood. U.S. GAAP is woven into the fabric of U.S. society. Bank covenants, managerial performance evaluation, tax regulation, auditing, investment decision making, government grants to not for profit organizations, and on and on, rely on U.S. GAAP. Now is the time for academics to increase their contributions to the IFRS discussion.

XBRL

With the public's attention focused so intently on financial statements and what's happening in the mortgage industry, few are talking about the technology revolution affecting how those statements will be prepared. On November 28, a new draft of the XBRL U.S. GAAP Taxonomies became available for public review and comment. Public comment by public company preparers, investors, financial analysts, auditors, and accounting academics are needed on both the taxonomy and the impacts of this tipping point. A SEC May 30, 2008 proposed rule requires the use of XBRL for the largest public companies as early as the first quarter of 2009. Yet little has been heard from the academic accounting community about the long-run advantages and/or disadvantages of XBRL.

Once XBRL filings are included in the SEC's EDGAR database, every organization and individual will be able to research and benchmark a firm's financial information. Because this information will be cheaply and readily available, CFOs may be under greater scrutiny to explain their financial statements, small companies may obtain more analysts following, and amateur investors may develop more confidence from the higher level of detail and comparability. Yet the quality of this more widely available information is as yet unknown.

The Fair Value Controversy

Critics such as former Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Chief, William Isaac, argue that fair value accounting is intensifying the financial-sector crisis by forcing banks to write down the

2. "PCAOB member slams stateside IFRS plans," by Penny Sukhraj, *Accountancy Age*, 11 Sep 2008.

3. "A Perspective on the SEC's Proposal to Accept Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) without Reconciliation to U.S. GAAP," by AAA Financial Accounting Standards Committee, K. Jamal *et al.*, *Accounting Horizons*, 22 (2), 241 (2008).

value of debt securities even if the loan payment streams behind them are flowing satisfactorily. “[M]ark-to-market accounting has been extremely and needlessly destructive of bank capital in the past year, and is a major cause of the current credit crisis and economic downturn,” Isaac said in prepared remarks.⁴

Fans maintain that fair-value accounting rules result in greater transparency for investors.⁵ According to IASB Chairman David Tweedie, the “beauty of fair value accounting...is that it brought [the credit] crisis very very quickly into the open.” Testifying before the British House of Commons’s Treasury Committee, Tweedie suggested that without fair value accounting, subprime lending might still be going on “and the disaster would be even worse.”⁶

Management Compensation Backlash

Last year Wall Street firms awarded a near-record \$33.2 billion in bonuses, just weeks before Bear Stearns went under and many firms took tens of billions of dollars in write-downs. Some people on Wall Street defend big bonuses, saying that bonuses traditionally make up nearly half of employees’ total compensation. However, many companies have announced the elimination of bonuses this year. Current talks among government officials about capping bonuses and compensation could have significant impacts for how compensation packages are structured in the future.⁷ Accounting numbers anchor most management bonus schemes and are used to motivate managers. Thus, compensation theory thought leadership will be in demand.

Assets/Liabilities Model Focus

A 2003 SEC report supported the adoption of a principles-based accounting system and simultaneously rejected the revenue/expense accounting model in favor of a model focused on assets/liability accounting. This shift to the balance sheet as the primary accounting statement is supported by standard-setters,⁸ but has generated controversy. Abandoning principles such as matching and conservatism unsettles accountants. Some assert that the asset/liability model combined with increasing reliance on fair values will result in increased reliance on rules rather than principles-based approach called for by the SEC and the IASB.⁹

“True and Fair” or “In Conformity With”

For the assets/liabilities model and fair values to work, auditing must play a significant role. Fair values invite manipulation and

are difficult to audit. Many advocate that the audit profession should adopt a true and fair override to encourage auditors to use professional judgment to ensure financial reporting is representationally faithful to the underlying economic substance of events. Current auditing standards, by reference to Rule 203 of the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct converts auditing to a rules based approach and has not been interpreted to allow for an override.¹⁰ A true and fair override may also mitigate against the increasing need for rules in a principles-based approach to standard-setting.

Tippling Points and Thought Leadership

Outlined above are a set of controversial, ground-shifting issues facing the accounting and wider business communities. These issues exemplify accounting’s basic, pervasive, and indispensable role in society. The AAA vision of the academic accounting community is that we are thought leaders in accounting and your thoughts on these issues have never been more important. Current accounting controversies present a series of tipping points and our collective thought leadership can and will play a significant part in how these tipping points are resolved. Your beliefs are needed by your students, your colleagues and the wider business community. Raise your voices, send your opinions to the SEC, publish your ideas and comments on the AAACommons, talk with your classes about these tipping points. Gladwell points out that the virtue of an epidemic, after all, is that just a little input (your input) is enough to get it started, and it can spread very, very quickly.

Finally, come to New York for the AAA Annual Meeting, “Accounting at a Tipping Point,” where our collective voices will debate, consider, evaluate, and generate thought leadership about these controversies. ■

2009 Annual Meeting in NYC - Save the Date!

On August 1-5, 2009, the American Accounting Association (AAA) will hold its Annual Meeting in New York City. The theme of the 2009 meeting is “Accounting at a Tipping Point.”

Be sure to check the AAA website often as new information about the Annual Meeting will be posted at <http://aaahq.org/AM2009/index.cfm>

Be sure to check out page 11 of this newsletter for Annual Meeting hotel information.

4. “Former FDIC Chief: Fair Value Caused the Crisis” by David M. Katz - CFO.com | US October 29, 2008.

5. “Mark-to-Market Controversy: Some Fair Values Are Fairer than Others” by G. Peter Wilson, AAACommons posted Oct 30 2008.

6. “Could Bank Rules End the Fair Value Debate?” by Marie Leone and Tim Reason - CFO.com | US, November 12, 2008.

7. “Wall Street bonus backlash brewing,” by David Ellis, CNNMoney.com, November 4, 2008.

8. See the IASB-FASB joint discussion paper “Preliminary Views on Financial Statement Presentation” posted at <http://go.iasb.org/FSP-DP> or http://www.fasb.org/draft/DP_Financial_Statement_Presentation.pdf. Comment period ends April 14, 2009.

9. Benston, G., M. Bromwich, and A. Wagenhoffer, “Principles-Versus Rules-Based Accounting Standards: The FASB’s Standard Setting Strategy,” *ABACUS*, (2) 42, 2006, pp. 165-188.

10. The rule states that “present fairly” “implies that the application of officially established accounting principles almost always results in the fair presentation of financial position. The almost always qualifier has not been interpreted to allow for an override.

New Opportunity: Call for Submissions

2nd Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning in Accounting at the 2009 AAA Annual Meeting

Be Part of this Peer-Reviewed Conference Program!

Submit your proposals by midnight EST **March 2, 2009** for the American Accounting Association's Second Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning in Accounting (CTLA) to be held August 1-2 just prior to the AAA Annual Meeting in New York City. Your proposals will be peer-reviewed and you will be notified by March 20, 2009 if you are selected to be one the CTLA faculty. Questions about CTLA submissions? Please contact Deirdre Harris at deirdre@aaahq.org or Susan Crosson at susan.crosson@sfcc.edu.

CTLA is designed for new and experienced faculty looking for opportunities to refine their teaching talents and perfect their craft in teaching accounting. The conference surrounds the AAA Annual Meeting to offer teaching-oriented CPE and an *Insiders' Guide* – a kind of “road map” – to sessions on teaching and curriculum-related topics throughout the Annual Meeting program. A concluding “What’s Next?” session at the end of the Annual Meeting provides a chance for reflection on learning across the meeting, and making recommendations for future Conferences on Teaching and Learning in Accounting.

Call for Submissions are being solicited for the following sessions (you are encouraged to submit multiple proposals):

Effective Teaching Practices Forum

Description: CTLA Faculty will share a course in a poster session. The poster will display materials (i.e., syllabus, calendar, exams, projects, etc.) for a course currently taught. Faculty should also be ready to discuss on a one-to-one basis how they teach the course including their teaching approach with conference participants both at the Saturday, August 1 luncheon and reception. These faculty will also be mentors at the Sunday afternoon CPE session. **Proposal should include:** Course name, course description, link to your course website and its course materials, and a brief statement about why you believe this is a model course.

Craft of Teaching Accounting Sessions

Description: Multiple 50-minute breakout sessions (that will be repeated) Saturday afternoon featuring topics like: teaching large classes, experiential learning – getting students engaged, getting classes off to a good start, ethics, teaching online, and technology supported learning. (Session schedule will be created based on submissions and the number of conference registrants...we are trying to keep these breakouts small and hands-on.) **Proposal should include:** A short description of proposed session topic and its learning outcome. Preferred format for session: panel, active learning, lecture, etc. Note if Internet and/or AV is required.

Teaching Tips

Description: Share your favorite teaching tip in ten minutes or less at roundtables. During the 50-minute session Saturday afternoon, you will present your tip five times. This session is high energy and lots of fun! **Proposal should include:** A short description of proposed teaching tip, the course or courses it is used in, and why it is so effective. (You may want to team up with another faculty if they also use the tip.)

Technology Tips

Description: Invite participants to use your favorite technology tool (i.e., iPod, webcam, tablet pc) and explain why it is so effective in ten minutes or less at roundtables. During the 50-minute session Saturday afternoon, you will share your tip five times. This session should be interactive and hands-on. **Proposal should include:** The technology tool you will provide and a short description of how participants will use it and why it is so effective in teaching/learning. (You may want to team up with another faculty if they also use the technology.)

Teaching with Technology

Description: Four 100-minute concurrent sessions Sunday morning on effectively using technology to teach/learn accounting. Sessions should actively involve participants in hands-on learning. Sessions could include creating audio and video podcasts, blending web-based and electronic-based resources with paper-based resources to create a robust and meaningful courses, learning how to upload videos into YouTube, adapting print-based assignments into web-based assignments, or adding work-authentic accounting software or database assignments. Participants will be at roundtables. **Proposal should include:** A short description of proposed session topic and its learning outcome. Note if Internet and/or AV is required.

Preparing for Class

Description: A small-group half-day session Sunday afternoon for CTLA participants to customize their own course materials, i.e., syllabus, course calendar, and exams for a course of their choice. Small groups will be formed around creating either an undergraduate financial accounting, managerial accounting, audit, AIS, or tax course. Participants should bring their laptop, course description, textbook, old course materials, and school calendar. Session will provide a review of best practices and hands-on mentoring by experienced faculty. (Current thinking is that small groups will be formed based on registrants' interests.) **Proposal should include:** What course(s) listed above or those that you shared during the Effective Teaching Practices Forum you are willing to facilitate.

CTLA Program Chair

Susan Crosson, Santa Fe College ■

**Submit your proposals via email to
Deirdre@aaahq.org**

Faculty Development Update

Gail Hoover King, Rockhurst University and Tracey E. Sutherland, AAA Executive Director

Camtasia Videos: The New Way to Use Microsoft Excel in Accounting Courses

By Warren Bostrom

College of St. Benedict and St. John's University

Recently during College of St. Benedict and St. John's University's accounting program review, we asked a variety of recruiting firms what key skills students must possess when beginning employment. The recruiters consistently mentioned proficiency in Excel along with accounting technical knowledge and communication skills.

As accounting faculty, we know we need to be using Excel in our accounting courses. Yet, if we are to incorporate Excel skills into our accounting courses and programs we must consider multiple issues. How can we incorporate Excel into the classroom effectively, when students have varying levels of Excel competence? How do faculty without access to a computer lab demonstrate specific Excel skills needed to complete assignments? How do we encourage faculty who do not believe they have "strong" computer skills to teach Excel and use it in their classes? One answer to overcoming these obstacles is to use Camtasia video, a software product that makes creating demonstration videos easy.

A Camtasia video records on screen movements and with the use of a microphone records audio instruction. As faculty demonstrate how to create and use a spreadsheet, the program records the screen movements and our explanation. The video can be uploaded to the Internet and posted on faculty web pages, Blackboard, Moodle, or other course management systems.

When students open the video, they will see our actions on the computer and simultaneously hear the faculty's voice describing how to complete tasks. They can use the video to suit their needs by pausing it, skipping ahead, or going back to review critical areas.

Camtasia videos are effective for four main reasons. First, today's students love technology and online videos (case in point: YouTube). Incorporating technology into the classroom lectures is one of the best ways to get students to pay more attention and engage in learning.

Second, Camtasia videos allow students to learn at their own pace. Before using Camtasia videos, I felt compelled to use class time to demonstrate Excel skills, and to do so at a pace that allowed every student to follow along so that all students were at least exposed to the skills necessary to complete the assignments. The pace was much too slow for some students, and I was not able to cover as much material. Now by using the Camtasia software, I complete the demonstrations in class, focusing more on theoretical application of Excel to solve accounting problems. After class, I upload the video

to my class site and students can sit and watch the video anytime anywhere they want. I can also post additional videos demonstrating similar concepts as covered in class.

Third, Camtasia videos allow us to teach Excel even if we do not have a computer lab. We can simply record a video in our office and ask the students to watch it outside of class. We can then assign Excel homework or require assignments based on information in the video.

Fourth, Camtasia videos allow faculty to teach Excel even if they do not possess strong Excel skills. One can record a short portion of the video and then pause the recording to practice the next set of instructions before continuing to record. In addition, for accounting programs that have program-level Excel learning goals, the professors who possess strong Excel skills could be responsible for creating the videos that all faculty could post on their respective web pages.

When I explain what Camtasia videos can do most everyone thinks they sound great, but most still have questions. Some of the typically questions are:

- Are the videos easy to create? Yes, the steps to prepare to record a video take only a couple minutes. After the video is recorded, the steps to post the video to a course management page take only another couple minutes. Depending on the length of the video, it may take some time to upload it to the Internet; however, we can be working on other things during this time. Further, although a basic Camtasia video is very simple to record and post to the Internet, more ambitious users can edit their videos to create tables of contents, insert callouts (text boxes), create introduction slides, or remove any slip-ups. You can also record the video to CDs and pass them out to students.
- Are there other uses (that would justify the cost)? Camtasia videos can be used to teach other concepts, topics, and computer programs. The technology would be appropriate anytime a faculty member wanted to narrate and record actions while working on a computer. For example, Camtasia videos can be used to narrate PowerPoint presentations, Microsoft access queries, Microsoft Word outlines, and Internet research techniques.
- Do students learn Excel and enjoy learning using Camtasia videos? My course evaluations and informal feedback show that the answer is a resounding yes. Shortly after introducing a Camtasia video to a class, I was walking across campus when a student yelled out of his dorm room window to me that the Camtasia video was "awesome." More than anything, students enjoy being able to work at their own pace in the comfort of their apartments and dorm rooms. Because the students enjoy learning, they will engage and learn more.

I have found by using Camtasia Videos that I can cover more material and my students are more engaged. Students are less intimidated by Excel assignments and are actually demonstrating Excel skills needed to start their career. I simply love how student learning can be enhanced through the use of Camtasia and I believe that you will as well. ■

Websites to visit:

If you would like to know more about how to use Camtasia videos, there are a variety of resources available to you.

Warren Bostrom has created a series of increasingly complex exercises for use in Financial and Managerial courses and posted some materials on the AAACCommons at <http://commons.aaahq.org/posts/725b3264bd>. Each exercise includes an assignment, solutions, and a Camtasia video. Note, you must first login to AAACCommons before you may view the materials.

Dr. Mark Lehman and Dr. Carol Lehman of Mississippi State University have prepared an excellent guide titled "Using Camtasia Studio to Record Web-based Videos." This guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to create Camtasia videos and is at <http://business.msstate.edu/accounting/pdf/Camtasia.pdf>.

To purchase the Camtasia program visit <http://store.techsmith.com/education.asp> or call (888) 750-0685. Make sure to ask for special education pricing. Note, neither AAA nor Warren Bostrom are compensated in any way by Camtasia.

In Memoriam

Inspiring Mentor Joe Rhile will be missed



Joe Rhile accepting the American Accounting Association's Service Award at the 2005 Annual Meeting

Accounting education lost a long-established leader and advocate with the death of Dr. Joseph (Joe) Rhile in November. As an emeritus professor at Lake Sumter Community College, Joe dedicated considerable time and leadership to the American Accounting Association, most recently working with AAA staff on a new edition of the "Rhile Directory" of Accounting faculty at 2-year colleges. That project will continue with warm memories of Joe and his efforts to support the community of 2-year colleagues.

Dr. Joseph Rhile, Ph.D., 95, of Leesburg, FL passed away November 24, 2008. Dr. Rhile was very active for many years in the AAA as the organizer and Charter Chairperson of the Two-Year College Section of the AAA. In 2005 he received AAA's Outstanding Service Award for creating and publishing the Two-Year Accounting Faculty Directory. He also received the Lifetime Achievement in Accounting Education Award of the Two-Year College Section. Dr. Rhile was an educator from 1937 to 1982 but remained active even after retirement. He was the welcoming role-model with sage advice for the many faculty who followed him in accounting education and involvement in the AAA. Dr. Rhile also was the co-organizer and president of the Florida Association of Accounting Educators, and has presented and published a number of papers on accounting education. ■

Membership

For the 2008-2009 member year, full membership includes electronic access to one, two, or all three association-wide journals – depending on the membership level selected. Full members will have the option to receive hard copies of the journals they subscribe to for an additional \$40. The full member dues structure is as follows:

- One journal option — \$175
- Two journal option — \$185
- Three journal option — \$195

Electronic access to section journals is also included in Section dues for students and full members. Some sections will charge full members a small fee to receive hard copies of the section journal(s). Please see the membership application for details.

For more information on membership please send an email to Kathleen McNeil at KathleenM@aaahq.org or call (941) 556-4104.

Students

The American Accounting Association now offers student memberships to full-time students residing anywhere in the world. Student (“associate”) membership dues are discounted and include electronic access to one, two, or all three association-wide journals – depending on the membership level selected. Student membership allows you to attend national, Section, and regional meetings of the Association at student rates when applicable. Student members are also eligible to purchase Association publications at member prices. Student membership dues in the AAA are as follows:

- One journal option — \$25
- Two journal option — \$35
- Three journal option — \$45

Electronic access to Section journals is also included in Section dues for student members. In order to offer student membership to students around the world, hard copies of journals are not available as a student membership add-on.

For more information on student membership please send an email to Kathleen McNeil at KathleenM@aaahq.org or call (941) 556-4104.

Emeritus and Life Members

The American Accounting Association recognizes the special experience and value longtime members give the Association by awarding Emeritus and Life memberships. If you have been a member of the AAA for at least 20 consecutive years and have retired from ordinary gainful employment, you are eligible for Emeritus membership. Emeritus membership costs \$25 a year with electronic-access to one of the AAA’s association-wide journals (*The Accounting Review*, *Accounting Horizons*, or *Issues in Accounting Education*), \$35 with electronic access to two journals, and \$45 for electronic access to all three journals. You may choose to receive a hard copy of the journal(s) you subscribe to for an additional \$40.

If you have been a member of the AAA for at least 40 consecutive years, you are eligible for Life membership. Life membership, including a subscription to *Accounting Education News*, is free. Life members, however, pay a small fee if they wish to have electronic access to one or more of the three association-wide journals (\$10 for one journal access, \$20 for two journal accesses, and \$30 for access to all three journals). You may choose to receive a hard copy of the journal(s) you subscribe to for an additional \$40. If you believe you are eligible for Emeritus or Life membership, please contact Kathleen McNeil at KathleenM@aaahq.org or call 941-556-4104. ■

Accounting Program Leaders: Sponsor Your Ph.D. Students' AAA Membership

Student membership in the American Accounting Association starts at just \$25 for one year and we invite you to introduce your students to the AAA by covering their costs for membership for one year. Membership in the AAA gives students invaluable access to research, meetings, and networking. With membership students receive an electronic subscription to their choice of one or more AAA journals. They can choose to receive access to *The Accounting Review*, the premier journal of accounting research, *Accounting Horizons*, or *Issues in Accounting Education*.

Student Members Receive:

- Discounted membership dues
- Choice of electronic access to one, two, or three association journal(s)
- Discounted registration fee for most Association meetings
- Discounts on Association publications; Access to Placement Service at Annual Meeting. (Meeting registration required.)
- Networking opportunities for career planning.

If you are interested in sponsoring your students' membership, please go to <http://aaahq.org/membership/SponsorStudents.pdf> to download a copy of the enrollment form. ■

AAA Student Membership Available to Doctoral Students Worldwide

The American Accounting Association is pleased to offer student memberships to full-time students residing anywhere in the world. Student ("associate") membership dues are discounted and include online access to a choice of one of the Association's three journals, and allow attendance at national, section, and regional meetings of the Association at student rates when applicable. For example, students save \$180 on the registration fee for the upcoming Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California, which offers opportunities to learn and network with colleagues from around the world. Student membership dues in the AAA are as follows:

- One journal option — \$25
- Two journal option — \$35
- Three journal option — \$45

For more information regarding member benefits, go online to <http://aaahq.org> and click on Membership. ■



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Slate for 2009-2010 Officers Selected by AAA Nominations Committee

The AAA is fortunate to have so many members involved in and committed to supporting the profession and discipline of accounting. 2008-2009 Nominations Committee members are Judy Rayburn, University of Minnesota (chair); Shyam Sunder, Yale University; Donna Street, University of Dayton; Mark Beasley, North Carolina State University; Christine Botosan, University of Utah; Naomi Soderstrom, University of Colorado at Boulder; and Gary Previts, Case Western Reserve University.

These colleagues comprise the slate of officers selected by the Nominations Committee for terms beginning in 2009-2010:

Office Nominees:

President-Elect

Kevin Stocks, Brigham Young University

Vice President-Undesignated

Ira Solomon, University of Illinois

Vice President-Professional Relations

Robert Colson, Grant Thornton, LLP, Partner

Vice President-International

Kazuo Hiramatsu, Kwansai Gakuin University

Vice President-Elect Finance

Stacy Kovar, Kansas State University

Council Member-at-Large

Recep Pekdemir, University of Istanbul

Council Member-at-Large

Cathleen Burns, University of Colorado

International Council Member-at-Large

Bhabatosh Banerjee, University of Calcutta

The AAA website and a future issue of *Accounting Education News* will include biographies and photos of the nominees, including any nominated by petition.

Terms

The President-Elect serves on the Executive Committee for three years beginning at the Annual Meeting in August 2009. Vice Presidents Undesignated, Professional Relations and International serve for two years. Vice President-Elect Finance serves for one year in the elect role (non-voting) and then for a two-year term. New officers begin their terms at the Annual Meeting in August 2009, in New York, NY

Confirmation Process

The officer confirmation election will take place beginning on March 23, 2009 and closing April 23, 2009.

Consistent with the AAA By-Laws, additional candidates for any of these positions may be nominated by petition signed by at least 100 members, submitted to the Executive Director at the international headquarters at 5717 Bessie Drive, Sarasota, FL 34233-2399, and received no later than February 6, 2009. Those so nominated must have agreed to serve if confirmed via contested election.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee is made up of the three most recent Past Presidents willing and able to serve and four members elected by the Council. The four elected members need not be members of the Council, and may not be current members of the Executive Committee. The Committee on Nominations is chaired by the most senior, in service, of the Past Presidents serving. The Nominations Committee nominates candidates for all of the elective offices of the Association and members at large of the Council. ■

2009 Annual Meeting Hotels

The American Accounting Association's 2009 Annual Meeting will be held in the **Hilton New York Hotel** and the **Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers** in New York, New York, August 1-5.

To receive the special conference rate be sure to:

- * Make your reservations by June 22, 2009
- * Identify yourself as attending the American Accounting Association Annual Meeting.

Hilton New York

1335 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10019 USA

Toll-Free: 1-800-445-8667

Telephone: 1-212-586-7000

Fax: 1-212-315-1374

Online Reservations: <http://aaahq.org/AM2009/hotel.cfm>

Group Rate:

Single/Double: \$209

Executive Level: \$239

Sheraton New York

811 7th Avenue

New York, NY 10019 USA

Toll-Free: 1-800-223-6550

Telephone: 1-212-581-1000

Fax: 1-212-262-4410

Online Reservations: <http://aaahq.org/AM2009/hotel.cfm>

Group Rate:

Single/Double: \$239

2009 AAA Awards

The American Accounting Association encourages you to visit the Awards page at <http://aaahq.org/awards.cfm>. Our awards recognize the many significant contributions of AAA members in accounting education, research, and the profession, most of which are given out during the Annual Meeting.

Wildman Medal Award –

to encourage practical research

<http://aaahq.org/awards/award1.htm>

Deadline: January 31, 2009

Competitive Manuscript Award –

to encourage research by new Ph.D.s

<http://aaahq.org/awards/award5.htm>

Deadline: January 31, 2009

Innovation in Accounting Education Award –

to encourage and recognize innovation in accounting education

<http://aaahq.org/awards/award6.htm>

Deadline: January 31, 2009

Notable Contributions to Accounting Literature Award –

to recognize research of exceptional merit

<http://aaahq.org/awards/nominat3.htm>

Deadline: January 31, 2009

Seminal Contributions to Accounting Literature Award –

to recognize seminal research

<http://aaahq.org/awards/award2.htm>

No stated deadline

Steve Berlin/CITGO Grant –

to foster academics' understanding of the contemporary external reporting problems faced by preparers

<http://aaahq.org/awards/BerlinCitgo.htm>

Deadline: March 10, 2009

Accounting Horizons and Issues in Accounting Education 2009 Best Paper Awards –

These two best paper awards are selected annually by a vote of subscribers to each journal.

http://aaahq.org/awards/2009AH_ISSBestPaper.htm

Deadline: February 16, 2009

Financial Statements

Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for the fiscal years ended August 31, 2008 and 2007 are published in their entirety on the Association website at: <http://aaahq.org/about/financials/TOC.htm>. ■

AAACCommons.org!

The **AAACCommons** is a new collaborative platform that enables you to interact and share ideas and files with your colleagues throughout the world much more easily! **AAACCommons** is a resource for teaching and research activities. With your contributions, over time it will grow to contain thousands of teaching and research posts, such as syllabi, classroom presentations, and research tools. Particularly useful is that you can create your own private spaces to do and store your work, and for your own activities (think private research teams, committee spaces, and teaching project groups). If you are new to the **AAACCommons**, go to **AAACCommons.org** and on the right side of your screen click on the blue colored "New Users" ticket to begin exploring all the potential this new platform has to offer. ■

Call for Volunteers 2009-2010

The American Accounting Association needs you! Our organization runs on the energy of its volunteers, who help a dedicated and very accomplished staff run more than 15 meetings each year, publish 13 journals, and help advance careers and knowledge through a variety of activities and communications. AAA volunteers contribute primarily through their sections and regions and via a committee structure that oversees education and research, assist with governance, helps manage our finances, selects award winners, and plans meetings. Without your assistance, our premier organization of academic accountants will not be able to accomplish our ambitious strategic plan and retain and grow our membership.

Thank you to the many of you who have volunteered in the past and also to those who have indicated an interest in doing so going forward. Full Members, Emeritus, and Life Members are welcome to volunteer. If you have not already done so, please contact Pat Stein (pat@aaahq.org) and let her know how you would like to participate. To learn about committees and Task Forces that could use your talents, visit <http://aaahq.org/about/directory2009/committees2009.htm>

Nancy Bagranoff
President-Elect

A New Look for the AAA Website

In conjunction with the November launch of the AAA Digital Library, the main website of the American Accounting Association also underwent a transformation. Although the structure remains intact, the color palette now reflects the look and feel of both our new electronic publications platform (AAA Digital Library) and our new networking and collaboration platform (AAACCommons). The aim of the redesign is to provide a more consistent online experience for our members and visitors. ■

A Few Words... from the Executive Director



While in the midst of the busy Section and Region meeting season, here in the headquarters office we are excited about both current and future opportunities that are steadily developing and insuring that 2009 will be another exciting year for the AAA. Word of mouth about the AAACommons is spreading quickly now as the new platform is being

engaged during Region and Section meetings. In the fall the Diversity, ABO, and Northeast Region Meeting programs included an AAACommons Lounge and presentations on the tools the Commons offers for resources, research, and networking. Every day, members are finding out how useful AAACommons can be in connecting with colleagues and sharing ideas. Be on the lookout for opportunities at upcoming Section and Region meetings to learn about it. Thanks to the Commons, the AAA is evolving into an even stronger and more tightly connected community.

The AAA's online presence is also strengthened with the recent launch of our new AAA Digital Library website, providing enhanced availability of association-wide and section journals. Ease of use is a hallmark of this new effort, from reading and subscribing to journals, to searching the journals for specific articles, to article submissions. Incorporating the latest online technology, the new Digital Library is key to supporting the value of these critically important publications. In coming months, these tools will be expanded to include online submissions by authors, online peer review tools, and electronic workflow for publications.

I hope you are all marking your calendars for the big event as the AAA returns to the Big Apple for the Annual Meeting and Conference on Teaching and Learning in New York, NY, August 1-5, 2009. Headquarters will be the Hilton New York Hotel; located in the heart of Manhattan at Sixth Avenue and West 54th Street, with the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers hosting additional hotel rooms and meeting space. This terrific location will put you within easy walking distance to wonderful restaurants, delis, shopping, theaters, historical sites, and museums. Not to be outdone by its surroundings, the Annual Meeting will host numerous exciting events, speakers, sessions, and opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make new connections.

Make your submission soon to take advantage of this engaging opportunity, and be sure to put the 2009 AAA Annual Meeting on your summer calendar. For more bookmark the 2009 Annual Meeting webpage at <http://aaahq.org/AM2009/index.cfm>.

See the list of upcoming meetings on p. 14 for this spring's opportunities to get together. I hope to see you at one of them.

Best regards and hopes for a renewing spring semester!

Tracey Sutherland, Ph.D.

New! AAA Digital Library Launched

On November 12, 2008 the AAA launched the new AAA Digital Library at <http://aaapubs.org>. The new site is designed to coordinate with AAACommons and the Association is excited to be able to provide new features and expanded functionality to our online publications.

My Scitation is a new feature that includes "My Publications" where users can save links to their favorite publications; "My Articles" where users can build multiple online collections for their research, and "My Subscriptions" which tells users at a glance to which journals they have access.

Enhanced Abstract Pages can be viewed for free by everyone and feature links to popular reference storage and social bookmarking sites such as Connotea, citeulike, del.icio.us, and BibSonomy as well as a link to easily email the abstract to a colleague. In addition you can easily download citations and include them in a reference list for your own research.

Additional Articles by the same author can be found easily via a link from the table of contents or from the abstract page.

Advanced Search features allow users to search all AAA journals or to pick and choose just certain journals in addition to providing several sorting options for search results.

Auxiliary Files can be posted and linked directly from an article.

Article-by-Article or "eFirst" publishing will allow readers to access and cite articles online before the entire issue is completed and sent to print providing current research to readers much more quickly than in the past.

Email Alerts provide a free email alerting service for all AAA publications. By subscribing to this service, you will receive table of contents alerts as issues are published in your choice of plain text or HTML. You do NOT need to subscribe to a journal to receive the email alert, table of contents, and abstract. However, full text is only available to journals you subscribe to.

Online Advertising will be available soon. Please contact Deirdre Harris, Member Relations & Marketing Manager at Deirdre@aaahq.org for information about advertising opportunities.

We look forward to your feedback about the AAA Digital Library. Please send comments, suggestions and questions to Diane Hazard, Publications Project Director at diane@aaahq.org. If you have trouble accessing your online subscription (e.g., request for login information) please feel free to contact the Scitation Help Desk technical support staff via email to help@scitation.org or via telephone at 1-800-874-6383 in the U.S. and Canada or 1-516-576-2664 for other locations. Customer support representatives are available Monday through Friday from 07:30 am to 23:00 pm EST or 12:30 to 4:00 GMT. ■

Staff Spotlight



In this issue of AEN, we introduce you to Jodie M. Morrill. Jodie started as a temp the end of April and was hired as a fulltime AAA employee July 1, 2008, to work in the Finance Department as an Accounting Assistant/Accounts Payable Coordinator.

Originally from the southern suburbs of Minnesota's Twin City area, Jodie's husband decided he couldn't and didn't want to put up with the Northern winter months anymore... So they "threw the dice" and in May 2003 ended up in North Port, Florida.

Jodie reports she was born and raised a true "tomboy" on a farm in Western Iowa, and attended Commercial Extension Business School in Omaha, Nebraska after graduating from high school. Upon completing Business School, she started a position with Mutual of Omaha, processing short-term travel insurance. She was later promoted to Supervisor of the department and worked there for about another 3 years before deciding to move back to Iowa to get married and raise her three children: two sons and one daughter. Jodie remained living and working in Iowa until 1989, at which time, after being divorced for several years, she decided to make a life altering change and moved my family to Minnesota's Twin City area. She started what proved to be an interesting career in the grocery industry and worked for the next 12 years as an inside Meat Sales Rep/Buyer, for a big grocery warehouse, Fairway Foods, Inc., Faribault, Minnesota. She sold meat products to grocery stores in a four-state radius of Minnesota and this is where she eventually ended up meeting and marrying her current husband. Jodie and her husband decided to move to Florida five years ago and about 6 months ago she reports: "I was fortunate to be offered a position with AAA. I have only been with AAA for about 6 months now, but so far I am enjoying my work experience here."

When not working, Jodie enjoys beading and making jewelry, sewing, flower gardening and crafts in general. She writes: "We used to be avid fishing and boating enthusiasts, but haven't done as much since moving to Florida. I am looking forward to the time when we can do more of this type of activity again in the future."

Jodie has 4 grandchildren and 10 step-grandchildren and shares her home with a "lovable" purebred Ragdoll cat, named Jazzy. ■

Upcoming AAA Section Meetings

Financial Accounting and Reporting Section Meeting

January 30–31, 2009 — New Orleans, LA

Accounting Programs Leadership Group Conference

February 8–10, 2009 — Nashville, TN

15th Annual Midyear International Accounting Section Conference

February 12–14, 2009 — St. Petersburg Beach, FL

ATA Midyear Meeting

February 20–21, 2009 — Orlando, FL

Government and Nonprofit Section Midyear Meeting

March 27–28, 2009 — Washington, D.C.

Public Interest Section Midyear Meeting

April 17 - 18, 2009 — Charleston, SC

ABO Research Conference

October 9–10, 2009 — Seattle, WA

Please visit the AAA website for future updates about the meeting for the **Diversity Section** (Fall 2009).

Upcoming AAA Region Meetings

Southwest Region

February 24–28, 2009 — Oklahoma City, OK

Mid-Atlantic Region

April 23–25, 2009 — Long Branch, NJ

Midwest Region

April 16–18, 2009 — St. Louis, MO

Western Region

April 23–25, 2009 — San Diego, CA

Southeast Region

April 30–May 2, 2009 — University, MI

Ohio Region

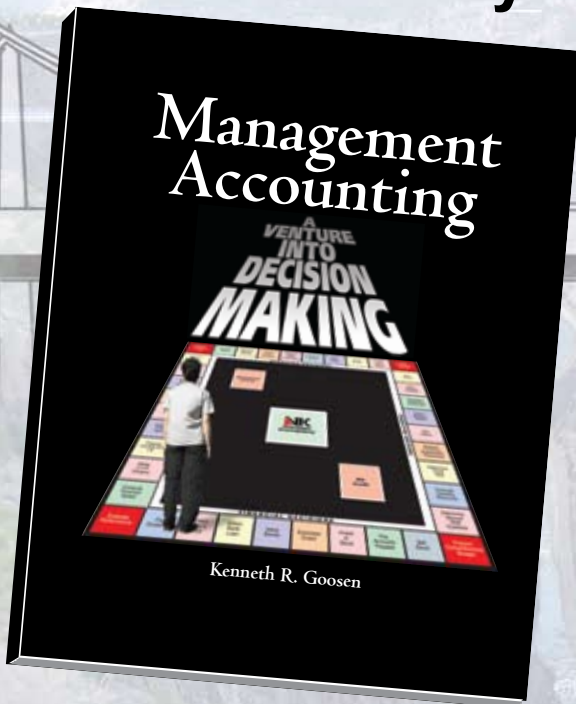
May 7–9, 2009 — Geneva-on-the-Lake, OH

Northeast Region

November 5–7, 2009 — Cambridge, MA

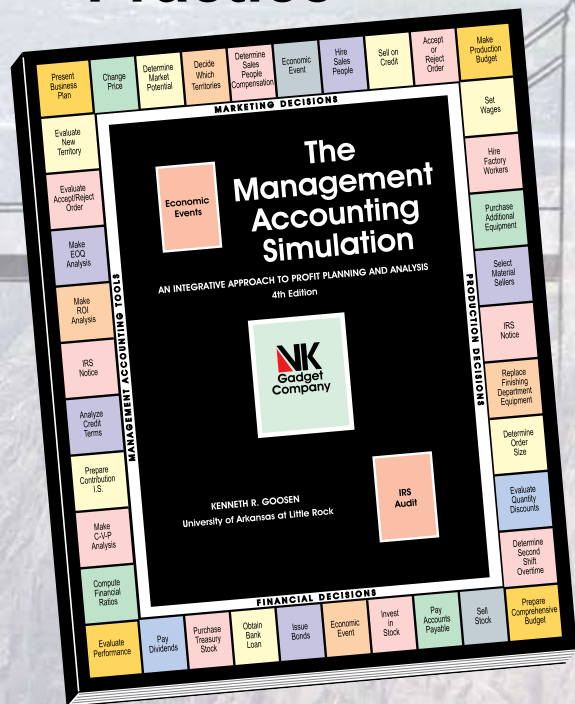
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